



Melissa Roy
August 18, 2009
Michigan House of Representatives
Intergovernmental Committee
mroy@detroitchamber.com

Madam Chair and members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony before you today. My name is Melissa Roy and I am the Senior Director of Government Relations with the Detroit Regional Chamber, a membership organization representing over 23,000 businesses in Southeast Michigan.

We are here today in support of the following bills:

HB 5169

Michigan business tax; credit; credit for transit-oriented development projects; create.

HB 5170

Economic development; Michigan economic growth authority; authority to issue certain tax credits; allow.

HB 5171

Economic development; downtown development authorities; agreements with public transit agencies; provide for.

HB 5173

Economic development; other; transit revitalization investment zones; create.

Transit is good for economic development:

1. Transit is a world-wide standard. Most Fortune 500 companies, small start-ups and entrepreneurs look for areas that have transit. It is a key asset that is at the top of site selectors' and new residents' lists.
2. Other areas that have built effective transit systems realize significant growth along transit lines and at specific stops.

Job providers and residents need transit:

1. Recent college graduates look for areas with transit. With entry level salaries, transit provides support to new members of the workforce.
2. Transit provides a cost effective method of getting to and from work. This increases both employment options for residents and workforce options for employers.
3. Transit provides a greater quality of life for all residents. Whether you are no longer able to drive because of age, a disability or other impairment, or simply

want another option, transit keeps you connected to daily needs, health care, entertainment and other people.

Visitors to the region need more options.

1. As the second ranking industry in the state, tourists are facing the same fuel costs as residents. Adding another cost to the average vacationer will either keep them at home, or cause them to spend less money on other things like lodging, attractions and retail.
2. Transit helps facilitate greater movement of visitors and attract them to the region. Transit systems are ways tourists understand places their visiting and helps connect them from one attraction to another.

Thank you for your time today. I am happy to take any questions on these bills or transit at this time or by way of future communication.